

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 NSC-07 SPC-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 EB-11

OMB-01 MC-02 DRC-01 /105 W
----- 028378

R 301208Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6569

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OASD/ISA//

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

DIST ENGR RIYADH//AMCPM-NG//

USMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, SA

SUBJECT: REDEYE AND BLOWPIPE SHOULDER FIRED AD MISSILES

1. (C) UK MOD SALES TEAM MADE PRESENTATIONS OF BLOWPIPE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD CHIEF DURING WEEK OF 10-14 MARCH. UK IS PREPARED TO SELL BLOWPIPE SYSTEM TO SAUDI ARABIA. FOLLOWING UK PRESENTATION, NATIONAL GUARD CHIEF PRINCE ABDULLA REQUESTED US ARMY PROGRAM MANAGER PROVIDE INFORMATION ON REDEYE FOR COMPARISON.

2. (C) WE UNDERSTAND USG POLICY HAS BEEN TO PROHIBIT RELEASE OF REDEYE TO MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES EXCEPT IRAN. WE RECOMMEND THIS POLICY REMAIN IN FORCE IN VIEW CONTINUED FEDAYEEN THREAT TO CIVIL AVIATION. ALTHOUGH CONTROL BY SAG OVER MUNITIONS IN PEACETIME IS VERY TIGHT, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT MISSILES COULD BE LOST DURING TRAINING OR DURING PERIOD OF HOSTILITIES SUCH AS OCTOBER 1973.

ADDITIONALLY FROM TACTICAL OPERATIONS STANDPOINT, SAUDI ARMED FORCES LACK ANY OVERALL COMMAND/CONTROL SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT AND CONTROL OVER AIR DEFENSE

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FIRES. INFANTRY MIGHT WELL DOWN THEIR OWN FRIENDLY AIR-

CRAFT.

3. (C) WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT URGE BRITISH TO WITHDRAW
THEIR OFFER TO SELL BLOWPIPE TO SAUDIS FOR SAME REASONS AND
THAT US ARMY PROGRAM MANAGER BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM PRINCE ABDULLA
THAT REDEYE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SALE.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: DEFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS, MISSILES, MILITARY SALES
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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